

POPE COUNTY

Mitigation Action Chart

#	Hazard	Mitigation Strategy	Mitigation Action	Status Priority Timeframe	Responsibility	Comments on Implementation & Integration	Possible Funding
1	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION Encourage all county residents to sign-up for the county’s CodeRED Emergency Notification System.	Existing High Ongoing	Pope County Emergency Management (PCEM)	Pope County maintains the CodeRED Emergency Notification System which allows residents and visitors to sign up (“opt-in”) to receive severe weather alerts targeted to their location, along with other local emergency alerts. A link to sign up for the system is located on the Pope County website.	Pope County
2	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	EOP PLANNING Ensure the county’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is updated and addresses policies & procedures needed to support EM functions prior to, during, and following a disaster.	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM	The Pope County EOP is updated on a regular basis and addresses functions that dually support mitigation and response for natural disasters, including public information and warning, operational coordination, mass care sheltering, evacuation, and access to resources.	Pope County
3	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	PLANS, POLICIES & CODES Adopt and enforce plans, policies, and building codes that reduce risk against future natural hazard events.	Existing High Ongoing	PC Land & Resource Mgmt., PC Hwy. Dept, in coord with Pope SWCD	Pope County departments continue to implement and enforce plans, policies, and codes that address risk reduction for natural hazards, including the Pope County floodplain ordinance, subdivision ordinance, Shoreland and Bluff Setback Regulations, 5-year Transportation Plan, Local Water Management Plan, building permits and codes for new development, and the Minnesota State Buffer Law.	Pope County

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4	All-Hazards	Local Planning & Regulations	<p>REGIONAL PLANNING Participate in regional planning and project efforts that address risk reduction to natural hazard events and improve shared mitigation capabilities.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM, other county depts.	<p>Pope County continues to work with key partners on shared efforts that help to mitigate damage from future hazard events, such as flood risk reduction projects, public outreach and education, and regional watershed planning. Long-term active partnerships are in place with the Twin Cities/Chanhassen NWS, Pope SWCD, NRCS, area watershed organizations, as well MN HSEM Region 4 Emergency Managers.</p>	Pope County, other agencies & organizations
5	All-Hazards	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	<p>VULNERABLE POPULATIONS Work in partnership with key partners on efforts to reduce risk to and benefit underserved communities or socially vulnerable populations within the county from the impacts of future natural hazard events.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM, Horizon Public Health	<p>PCEM and Horizon Public Health continue to work with local governments, school districts, hospitals, mobile home park (MHP) operators, long-term care and childcare facilities, MN Dept. of Health, American Red Cross, and the Salvation Army on emergency preparedness efforts that benefit those considered to be more vulnerable in the county from severe weather or extreme temperature events. This includes the elderly, disabled, students, and low-income residents. Example efforts include provision of energy assistance programs during periods of extreme cold, evacuation & shelter planning for long-term care facilities and MHP's, and delivery of education and awareness information in different formats. PCEM and PC GIS maintain data on location of vulnerable facilities which is incorporated in EM planning.</p>	Pope County, other agencies & organizations

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6	All-Hazards	Education & Awareness Programs	<p>OUTREACH & EDUCATION Inform and educate residents through outreach and education programs to increase awareness and preparedness for severe weather events, periods of extreme heat or cold, and extended power outages.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM	<p>Pope County utilizes the Pope County Emergency Management website page, the Pope County Sheriff's Office Facebook page, and local news media to communicate with residents, visitors, schools, and long-term care facilities on emergency preparedness, severe weather, and other hazard conditions throughout the year. Pope County also participates in the NWS annual Winter Hazard Awareness Week and Severe Weather Awareness Week each November and April.</p>	Pope County
7	Severe Winter Storms	Local Planning & Regulations	<p>SNOW & ICE CONTROL Implement snow removal and ice control to ensure the safety of county roads impacted by winter storms.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	Pope County Hwy. Dept.	<p>The PC Highway Department is responsible for the removal of snow and ice control on 240 miles of bituminous roads and 130 miles of gravel roads. The county also assists with some city and township roads based upon agreement. The department completes its snow removal process in accordance with established best practices.</p>	Pope County
8	Severe Summer Storms	Education & Awareness Programs	<p>SKYWARN TRAINING Work with the National Weather Service (NWS) to provide SkyWarn training and develop a network of trained Storm Spotters throughout the county.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM in coord with NWS	<p>PCEM works with the NWS to offer this training on an annual basis to local fire and law enforcement departments and local residents that wish to be trained as spotters.</p>	National Weather Service

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9	Severe Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	OUTDOOR WARNING SIRENS Ensure outdoor warning sirens are located where needed and functioning properly.	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM in coord with local jurisdictions	Pope County Emergency Management and Pope County Sheriff's Office work in conjunction with communities where sirens are located to test them and ensure they are functioning properly. PCEM will work with communities to close any gaps in warning siren coverage. Grant funding may be available for warning sirens from the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant Program.	Pope County & local jurisdictions
10	Severe Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	STORM SHELTERS / TORNADO SAFE ROOMS Coordinate with local jurisdictions to address the need for the construction of storm shelters or tornado safe rooms in areas where residents or visitors are vulnerable to high wind events, such as mobile home parks and campgrounds.	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM in coord with local jurisdictions	PCEM will assist any communities in their effort to assess and address the need for construction of a storm shelter or tornado safe room. Grant funding may be available for tornado safe rooms from FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program funding, based on application approval.	Pope County, Local Gov't, FEMA HMA
11	Severe Summer Storms	Local Planning & Regulations	MHP SAFETY Ensure that licensed manufactured home parks (MHP's) within the county meet the requirements of MN Statute 327.20 for shelters and evacuation plans.	Existing High Ongoing	Horizon Public Health	Horizon Public Health works in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on this effort. Shelter and evacuation plans must be approved by the city or township in which they are located and submitted to the MDH. Horizon Public Health serves the counties of Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens and Traverse Counties.	Pope County, MDH
12	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	POWERLINE RETROFITS Encourage municipal and rural electric coops to address burying powerlines or strengthening power poles to avoid power outages from high wind events and storms.	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM, local jurisdictions in coord with electric utility providers	PCEM works with our utility coops and local governments on these efforts as needed. FEMA HMA grant funding may be a source for powerline infrastructure retrofits that eligible rural and municipal electric coops can apply for.	Electric Coops, FEMA HMA

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13	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	<p>GENERATOR BACKUPS Work with county departments and local jurisdictions to obtain generator backup power where needed for extended power outages due to storms.</p>	Existing Moderate Ongoing	PCEM in coord with county depts and local jurisdictions	<p>PCEM continues to work with county departments and local jurisdictions to secure portable or permanent backup generators to power critical facilities during extended power outages. Most of the outdoor warning sirens in the county have no battery backup. PCEM will work with local jurisdictions that own sirens to address this need for generator backup power. County and local government funding to purchase generators is limited and obtaining generators can be a slow process. Where applicable, FEMA HMA grant funding may be applied for generators.</p>	Pope County, Local Gov't, FEMA HMA
14	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	<p>SEVERE WEATHER PLANS Encourage schools and other facilities that house senior citizens or other vulnerable populations to have emergency plans in place to deal with severe weather, extreme temperatures, and extended power outages.</p>	Existing Moderate Ongoing	PCEM in coord with local jurisdictions	<p>PCEM continues to work with local jurisdictions provide outreach to and support to schools and other facilities on emergency planning. Schools and long-term care (LTC) facilities are required to have such plans in place. PCEM provides direct training or planning assistance as requested.</p>	Pope County, Schools, LTC Facilities

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15	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Local Planning & Regulations	BUILDING SAFETY Ensure that new development projects follow state building codes in order to withstand the impacts of severe weather events, including roof collapse from heavy snow or damages from high wind events.	Existing Moderate Ongoing	PC Land & Resource Mgmt.	Pope County is not a "Code County" meaning that we have not adopted the State Building Code. Therefore, we do not enforce the Code. Meaning that we do not go onsite and inspect for compliance. However, we do enforce that contractors must be licensed and that a licensed contractor is obligated to build in conformance with the Code. Regardless of not being a 'Code County" we are obligated to enforce bleacher safety and accessibility standards.	Pope County
16	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Natural Systems Protection	VEGETATION MANAGEMENT Manage trees and other vegetation along roads from severe storm events to reduce risk to passing motorists.	Existing Moderate Ongoing	PC Highway Dept., Local Utility Providers	The Pope County Highway Department regularly conducts vegetation management along county roads to reduce the risk of downed trees or branches resulting from severe spring and summer storm events. Local utility providers also work to manage vegetation near power lines to reduce the risk of downed lines and power outages.	County, Utilities
17	Severe Winter & Summer Storms	Mitigation Preparedness & Response Support	WEATHER RADAR GAPS Work with the National Weather Service to address gaps in radar coverage for Pope County.	Existing High 2024-2029	PCEM in coord with NWS	Pope County is 1 of the 72 counties in the state that have some level of weather radar gap. PCEM is a member of the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM), which has a group working with the NWS to address closing the gaps in radar cover for all parts of the state. PCEM will continue to participate in these efforts.	NWS

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18	Extreme Heat / Cold Temps	Education & Awareness Programs	EXTREME TEMPERATURES PUBLIC OUTREACH Conduct public outreach and provide information to residents on safety measures when there are periods of extreme heat or extreme cold.	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM	PCEM works to share information received from the National Weather Service when periods of extreme heat or cold are forecast and occurring. PCEM utilizes the county EM website page, and EM Facebook. Local radio and TV stations also provide this information to the public. School Districts have plans and policies in place for delaying or closing school to protect students from extreme temps.	Pope County

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19	Landslides	Natural Systems Protection	SHORELAND AND BLUFF SETBACK REQUIREMENTS Enforce Shoreland and Bluff setbacks requirements are enforced to reduce risk where flooding or erosion could occur and increase risk for landslides.	New Moderate Ongoing	PC Land & Resource Mgmt. in coord with Sauk River Watershed District	In shoreland zoning districts, structure setbacks and shoreland alteration regulations in the Land Use Ordinance mitigate against landslides. Setbacks from Ordinary High-Water Levels and bluffs apply to any structures in a shoreland zone, and shoreland alteration rules limit excavation, fill and vegetation removal in shore impact zones, bluff impact zones and on steep slopes. The performance standards (setback provisions) in the shoreland district that relate to de-vegetation and development near a bluff or steep slope are an effort to minimize impacts of such activities which can result in slope destabilization and sluffing off. In addition, the Sauk River Watershed District implements a permitting program that requires a permit for work within 500-feet of a waterbody or wetland and disturbs more than 200 square feet during development. This aids in minimizing destabilization during construction, should a storm event occur while soils are exposed.	Pope County, Sauk River Watershed District

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20	Landslides	Local Planning & Regulations	<p>MN STATE BUFFER LAW Enforce requirements of the MN State Buffer Law to help reduce impacts of erosion in areas that may be susceptible to landslides.</p>	<p>Existing Moderate Ongoing</p>	<p>PC Land & Resource Mgmt. in coord with Pope SWCD</p>	<p>Pope County has adopted the requirements of the Minnesota Buffer Law. The purpose and intent of the law is to protect state water resources from erosion and runoff pollution; to stabilize soils, shores and banks; and to protect or provide riparian corridors. Pope SWCD has completed a county wide desktop analysis to determine compliance and is working with landowners to ensure implementation. Pope County Land & Resource Management is designated as the enforcement agency.</p>	<p>Pope County, Pope SWCD</p>
21	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	<p>NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and enforce policies that address development in high-risk flood areas.</p>	<p>Existing High Ongoing</p>	<p>PC Land & Resource Mgmt.</p>	<p>Pope County participates in the NFIP and enforces requirements of the program. The FEMA designated floodplain is managed under the Pope County Flood Plain Ordinance No.5. The ordinance establishes the flood plain district and provides standards for development within the flood plain district. The PC Land and Resource Management Department is responsible for implementation and enforcement of the floodplain management ordinance for the county.</p>	<p>Pope County</p>

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22	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations / Structure & Infrastructure Projects	<p>LOCALIZED FLOOD RISK REDUCTION</p> <p>Plan for and implement measures to address localized flood reduction projects for roads, bridges, and culverts throughout the county.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	PC Hwy. Dept. in coord with Pope SWCD and Watershed Orgs.	<p>The Pope County Water Plan (2013-2023) addresses water problems in the context of watershed units and groundwater systems. The plan identifies a plan of action to implement measures for priority watershed issues, including wetland storage, stormwater and flood retention projects, updating culvert inventories, drainage ditch system improvements, and raising public awareness.</p> <p>The PC Highway Department is responsible for the planning, design, construction, and inspection all roads, bridges, and trails throughout the county. The Highway Department maintains a 5-year plan outlining proposed transportation projects. The plan identifies and schedules road and bridge improvement projects that include measures for flood mitigation.</p>	Pope County

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23	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	<p>WATERSHED PLANNING Work with area watershed organizations to address mitigation plans and projects that address risk reduction for localized flooding and erosion.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM in coord with Watershed Districts, Pope SWCD	<p>Pope County has participated in regional watershed-based planning efforts including North Fork Crow River 1W1P and the Sauk River 1W1P. Pope County is currently participating in the Chippewa River 1W1P planning effort. The planning area for the Chippewa River 1W1P includes portions of Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas, Stevens, Pope, Swift, Chippewa, and Kandiyohi counties. County and SWCD Boards in each of these counties have entered into a Joint Powers Agreement for the purpose of developing a watershed plan and to restore and protect the water and soil resources in the Chippewa River Watershed planning area.</p>	Pope County, Watershed Orgs., Pope SWCD
24	Flooding	Local Planning & Regulations	<p>PROPERTY BUYOUTS Conduct property buyouts to acquire homes affected by repetitive flooding and physically relocate or remove those homes to eliminate future flood damages.</p>	Existing Moderate Ongoing	PCEM	<p>There are currently no potential property buyout projects identified by Pope County. The county will continue to evaluate and assist with potential future property acquisition projects and application to FEMA or MN DNR for grant funding to conduct buyouts.</p>	Pope County, FEMA HMA

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25	Flooding	Natural Systems Protection	<p>RUNOFF STORAGE AND RESTORATION PROJECTS Conduct floodplain and stream corridor restoration in areas that are impacted by high rain events.</p>	Existing Moderate Ongoing	PC Land & Resource Mgmt. in coord with Pope SWCD and other watershed groups	<p>This is an ongoing effort of PC Land & Resource Mgmt. in coordination with the Pope SWCD and watershed districts (Sauk River WD, North Fork Crow River WD, and Chippewa River WD) as projects are identified in the 1W1P regional plans. Pope County notes there is a need for runoff storage projects as well as channel restoration techniques to reduce the impacts of flooding. These efforts are under investigation by the Sauk River Drainage Authority. FEMA HMA grant funding may be sought for future eligible projects in the future. Pope County Land and Resource Management may review such plans but will not be involved with implementation of such projects.</p>	Pope County, Watershed Districts, FEMA HMA
26	Drought	Education & Awareness Programs	<p>DROUGHT OUTREACH & EDUCATION Provide outreach and education to residents to be aware of watering restrictions, water conservation tips, and fire safety during periods of severe drought.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM	<p>PCEM continues to provide public outreach and education during heightened drought periods using the county website and social media platforms. PCEM encourages city and townships to promote drought awareness to residents at the local level.</p>	Pope County
27	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations	<p>WATERING RESTRICTIONS Implement watering restrictions during periods of drought as per MN DNR guidance.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	PCEM in coord with MN DNR and local jurisdictions	<p>Pope County and local jurisdictions will establish and enforce watering restrictions as per MN DNR guidelines during periods of severe drought.</p>	Pope County, Local Gov'ts

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28	Drought	Local Planning & Regulations	<p>DROUGHT MONITORING Monitor precipitation and wells for drought conditions that may pose risk to county water levels and use for agricultural industry.</p>	Existing High Ongoing	Pope SWCD, NDAWN, and MN DNR	<p>The Pope SWCD office has a weather station located on site at the Twin Cities/Chanhasen NWS Forecast Office and captures precipitation information for the NWS. The Pope SWCD also has a weather station located at the Rosholt Research Farm and this precipitation information is included in the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN). The MN DNR maintains information on its website of drought levels from the U.S. Drought Monitor. The DNR Cooperative Groundwater Monitoring Program obwell network collects static groundwater-level data to assess groundwater resources, determine long term trends, interpret impacts of pumping and climate, plan for water conservation, and evaluate water conflicts. There are 25 wells monitored in the Pope SWCD's Observation Well Monitoring Program for the MN DNR. Some of them are nested together but there are separate measurements for each.</p>	SWCD, MN DNR, NDAWN
29	Dam/Levee Failure	Structure & Infrastructure Projects	<p>DAM & LEVEE SAFETY Work with the MN DNR Dam Safety program to address any dams or levees that require repair.</p>	Existing Low Ongoing	MN DNR	<p>Pope County continues to be available to work with the MN DNR on any issues that may arise with these structures within the county. There are no high hazard potential dams within the county.</p>	MN DNR